# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# AGRICULTURE
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:957
ANSWERED ON:24.02.2003
CRISIS IN AGRICULTURE SECTOR OF MAHARASHTRA
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**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the agriculture sector in Maharashtra has been facing serious challenges due to slowdown in productivity growth of several crops owing to inadequate infrastructural development and institutional changes;

(b) if so, whether any remedial measures have been taken by the Government to improve the situation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for the same?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) to (c): Agricultural productivity in Maharashtra, as discernible from yield per hectare, has not registered any steady decline. For example, in the case of rice, the yield per hectare declined from 1.68 tonnes in 1999-2000 to 1.28 tonnes in 2000-01. However, the yield increased to 1.75 tonnes per hectare in 2001-02. In order to further improve the performance of the agriculture sector, the Government have taken a number of initiatives such as promotion of watershed development programmes, emphasis on developing and promoting new technologies, measures for increasing availability of agricultural credit, Market Information Network, National Agricultural Insurance Scheme etc. Besides, the Government also encourage farmers to increase production through price policy which includes implementation of Minimum Support Price and Market Intervention Schemes. Apart from these, the Government have also adopted macro- management mode for providing assistance to the States. The macro-Management Scheme integrates 27 schemes into one for supplementing and complementing the efforts of State Governments through work plans. This gives flexibility to States to address specific problems faced by them depending on local requirements, avoid overlapping in the contents of different schemes and aim at all-round development of agriculture.